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SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD REPORT, ALLEGHENY CREEK, BERKS COUNTY, PEN--ETC(U)  
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SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD REPORT

ALLEGHENY CREEK

BERKS COUNTY, PA

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PREPARED FOR

BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

BY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

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REP. NO: 1DAEN(NAP-82040/SFH01-76/06)

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TO THE REQUESTOR:

This Flood Plain Information (FPI) Report was prepared by the Philadelphia District office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, under the continuing authority of the 1960 Flood Control Act, as amended. The report contains valuable background information, discussion of flood characteristics and historical flood data for the study area. The report also presents through tables, profiles, maps and text, the results of engineering studies to determine the possible magnitude and extent of future floods, because knowledge of flood potential and flood hazards is important in land use planning and for management decisions concerning floodplain utilization. These projections of possible flood events and their frequency of occurrence were based on conditions in the study area at the time the report was prepared.

Since the publication of this FPI Report, other engineering studies or reports may have been published for the area. Among these are Flood Insurance Studies prepared by the Federal Insurance Administration of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Flood Insurance Studies generally provide different types of flood hazard data (including information pertinent to setting flood insurance rates) and different types of floodplain mapping for regulatory purposes and in some cases provide updated technical data based on recent flood events or changes in the study area that may have occurred since the publication of this report.

It is strongly suggested that, where available, Flood Insurance Studies and other sources of flood hazard data be sought out for the additional, and, in some cases, updated flood plain information which they might provide. Should you have any questions concerning the preparation of, or data contained in this FPI Report, please contact:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Philadelphia District  
Custom House, 2nd and Chestnut Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

ATTN: Flood Plain Mgt. Services Branch, NAPEN-M

Telephone number: (215) 597-4807

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) This special flood hazard information report was undertaken by the U.S. Army Engineer District, Philadelphia at the request of the Berks County Planning Commission. It covered the Allegheny Creek from its confluence with the Schuylkill River at Robeson Township to the study limit at Kurtz Mill Road, Brecknock Township, a distance of 10.3 miles. The hydrology, hydraulics and drainage areas of the creek were described. The data also included peak floods for 10, 50, 100 and 500 year floods, rise and duration of		

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flooding and flood profiles.

The information given within the scope of this report should be considered for its historical value. Since the publication of this report other flood insurance studies have been undertaken and should also be consulted for current information.

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SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD INFORMATION REPORT

ALLEGHENY CREEK, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD INFORMATION REPORT  
ALLEGHENY CREEK, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**1.0 AUTHORITY FOR STUDY**

This Special Flood Hazard Information Report was undertaken at the request of the Berks County Planning Commission with the indorsement of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources. This report was prepared by the Philadelphia District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers under continuing authority provided in Section 206 of the 1960 Flood Control Act as amended.

**2.0 DESCRIPTION OF AREA AND LIMITS OF STUDY**

This report covers the Allegheny Creek from its confluence with the Schuylkill River at Robeson Township to the study limit at Kurtz Mill Road, Brecknock Township, a distance of 10.3 miles. The stream is characterized by low banks with the overbanks varying from gently rolling hills to side slopes that are extremely steep. The areas adjacent to Allegheny Creek are predominantly rural. The flood plains are generally used for agricultural purposes although there is some residential development scattered along the stream. The study areas of Allegheny Creek are shown on the General Map. A tabulation of stream mileages and respective drainage areas can be found in Table 1.

**3.0 HISTORY OF FLOODING**

There are no streamflow records available for Allegheny Creek, however, damaging floods have been reported to have occurred in nearby watersheds as early as 1757. Other major flood damages were reported in the Allegheny Creek Basin in July 1935 and March 1936 with the highest known flood of record to occur on June 22-23, 1972, as a result of Hurricane Agnes.

**4.0 DESCRIPTION OF WORK**

**4.1 Surveys**

Field surveyed cross sections were performed by United A & E Incorporated of Reading, Pennsylvania, under contract to the Philadelphia District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Philadelphia District personnel performed bridge measurements and additional survey work.

#### 4.2 Hydrology

There are no stream gages located on Allegheny Creek to record historical flood events. Discharge-frequency relationships were developed from regionalized discharge-frequency curves adjusted to correlate with estimated peak discharges of past flood events on Allegheny Creek and calculated peak flows from other nearby drainage basins. Peak flows were thus developed for the 10-Year, 50-Year and 100-Year frequency flood events. The 100-Year Flood is defined as the flood which occurs once in 100 years on the average and has a 1% chance of being equalled or exceeded in any year. Peak flows for the 500-Year Flood were obtained by extrapolating the discharge-frequency curve computed for flood events up to the 100-Year Flood. A tabulation of peak flows for Allegheny Creek is given in Table 2.

#### 4.3 Hydraulics

Water surface profiles for the 10-, 50-, 100- and 500-Year Flood events for Allegheny Creek were computed using the Corps of Engineers' HEC-II Backwater Program. Starting water surface elevations for the Allegheny Creek were extrapolated from flood elevations on the Schuylkill River developed at the mouth of Antietam Creek, a neighboring watershed studied in a previous report. Water surface profiles shown in this report were developed based on existing conditions of the watershed at the time field surveys were performed. During an actual flood, debris collecting on bridges and culverts could decrease their water-carrying capacity and cause backwater effects upstream of these structures. However, since the location and extent of debris accumulation are impossible to predict, it was necessary, for the purposes of this report, to assume that bridge and culvert openings would remain unobstructed. In addition to bridges and culverts, there are 2 small dams located on Allegheny Creek within the study area. These dams have essentially no flood storage capacity, nor will they significantly alter the flow characteristics of floodwaters. Water surface profiles thus developed can be found on Plates 1 through 4. A tabulation of flood elevations at all bridges and culverts can be found in Table 3.

Typical stream cross sections on Allegheny Creek and respective water surface elevations for the four frequency-flood events are shown on Plate 5. Maximum velocities of flow which are expected to occur at these selected cross sections are given in Table 4. Predicted rates of rise and duration of flooding for the 100-Year Flood on the Allegheny Creek are shown in Table 5.

## 5.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The assistance and cooperation of the U. S. Geological Survey, Berks County Planning Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, and private citizens in supplying data for the preparation of this report are appreciated.

Additional copies of this report can be obtained from the Berks County Planning Commission. The Philadelphia District Office of the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, will upon request provide technical assistance to planning agencies in the interpretation and use of the data presented as well as planning guidance and further assistance, including the development of additional technical information.

TABLE 1  
DRAINAGE AREAS  
ALLEGHENY CREEK

<u>Location</u>	<u>Mileage Above Mouth</u>	<u>Drainage Area Total sq. mi.</u>
<u>Allegheny Creek</u>		
At mouth	0.00	17.9
Downstream of Tributary 1	3.59	14.2
Downstream of Tributary 2	4.54	11.4
Downstream of Tributary 3	6.43	8.0

TABLE 2  
PEAK FLOWS FOR THE 10-YEAR, 50-YEAR, 100-YEAR AND 500-YEAR FLOODS

<u>Location</u>	<u>Mileage Above Mouth</u>	<u>Drainage Area sq. mi.</u>	<u>Discharges</u>			
			<u>10- Year Flood cfs</u>	<u>50- Year Flood cfs</u>	<u>100- Year Flood cfs</u>	<u>500- Year Flood cfs</u>
<u>Allegheny Creek</u>						
Confluence with Schuylkill River	0.00	17.9	1,975	4,000	5,150	8,800
Downstream of Tributary 1	3.59	14.2	1,690	3,470	4,450	7,670
Downstream of Tributary 2	4.54	11.4	1,480	2,990	3,910	6,840
Downstream of Tributary 3	6.43	8.0	1,090	2,300	2,970	5,250

TABLE 3  
ELEVATION DATA  
BRIDGES ACROSS ALLEGHENY CREEK

<u>Identification</u>	<u>Mileage Above Mouth</u>	<u>Underclearance Elevation</u> <u>Feet - Mean Sea Level Datum</u>	<u>Water Surface Elevation (a)</u>		
			<u>100-Year Flood</u> <u>Feet - Mean Sea Level Datum</u>	<u>500-Year Flood</u>	
<u>Allegheny Creek</u>					
Old River Road	0.07	161.1	180.1	185.6	
Schuylkill Canal					
Viaduct (Abandoned)	0.20	167.4	180.1	185.6	
Pa. Rte. 724	0.32	176.2	180.1	185.6	
Penn Central RR	0.43	191.2	181.6	185.6	
Green Hill Road	1.30	235.0	240.6	243.6	
White Bear Road	1.49	244.7	244.8	247.5	
Private Road	2.14	255.4	262.8	265.0	
Private Road	2.38	261.3	267.0	268.5	
Private Road	2.40	264.1	272.1	274.0	
Evergreen Road	2.78	270.5	277.3	280.7	
Green Hill Road	2.85	273.0	278.2	281.4	
Seton Road	4.09	305.6	307.1	307.6	
Pa. Rte. 10	4.69	320.1	317.8	319.9	
<u>Interstate</u>					
Rte. 176	4.81	348.0	324.1	326.5	
Private Road	5.28	333.4	336.2	337.2	
Private Road	5.50	338.3	342.4	343.2	
Gumbart Road	5.69	346.3	346.2	349.9	
Private Road	6.15	354.2	355.7	355.8	
Hartz Store Road -					
Pa. Rte. 325	6.49	363.0	363.2	364.3	
Gebhart School					
Road	7.63	394.8	400.2	401.8	
T-328	8.39	427.1	427.6	432.4	
T-324	9.07	442.5	446.6	447.6	
Private Road	9.52	465.8	470.1	471.1	
Access Road to New					
Development	9.94	494.4	493.0	494.0	
Kurtz's Mill Road	10.30	513.7	515.2 (b)	518.9 (b)	

(a) Flood elevations are reported for the upstream side of the bridge.

(b) Downstream side of bridge.

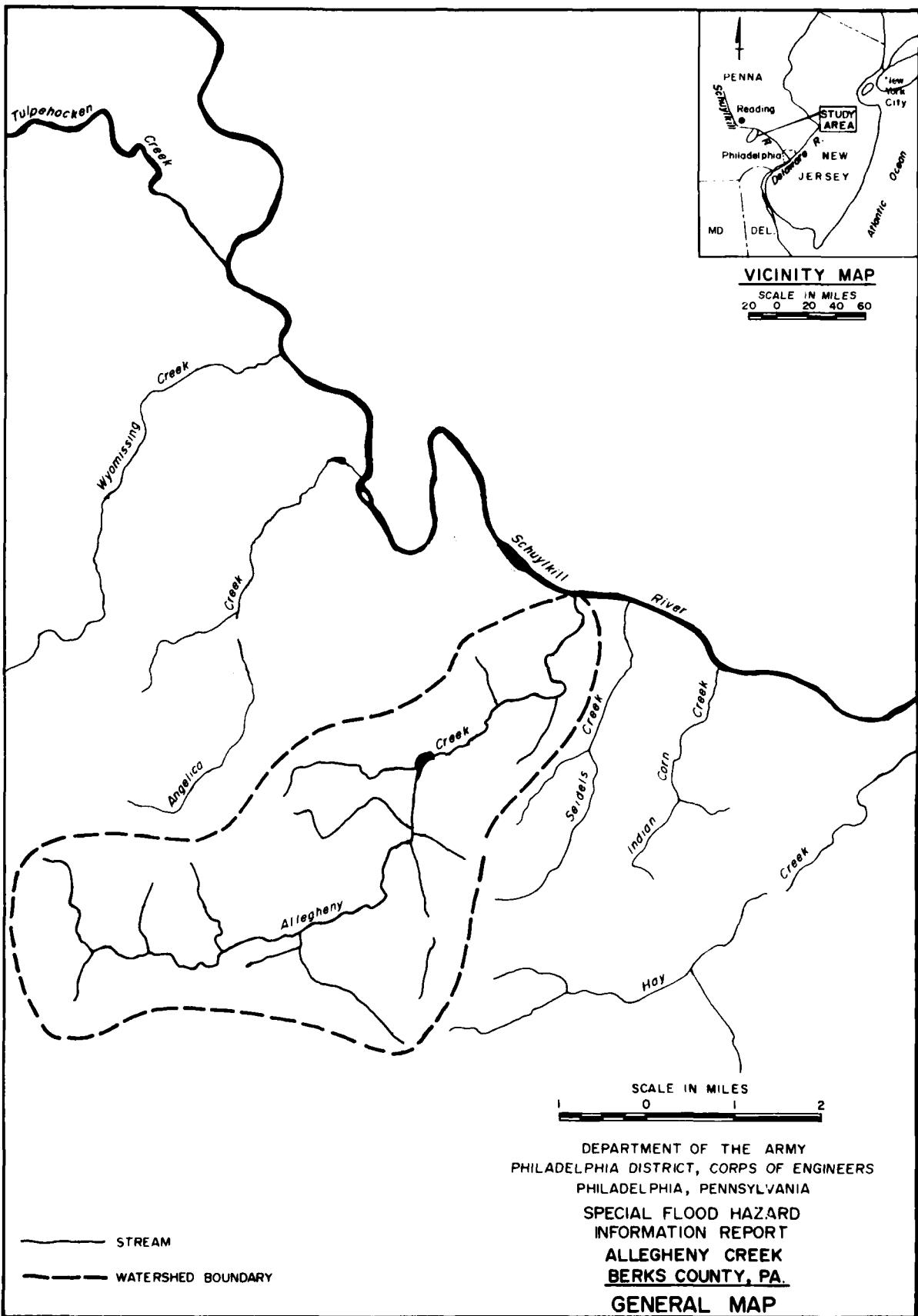
TABLE 4  
 MAXIMUM VELOCITIES  
 SELECTED CROSS SECTIONS  
 ALLEGHENY CREEK

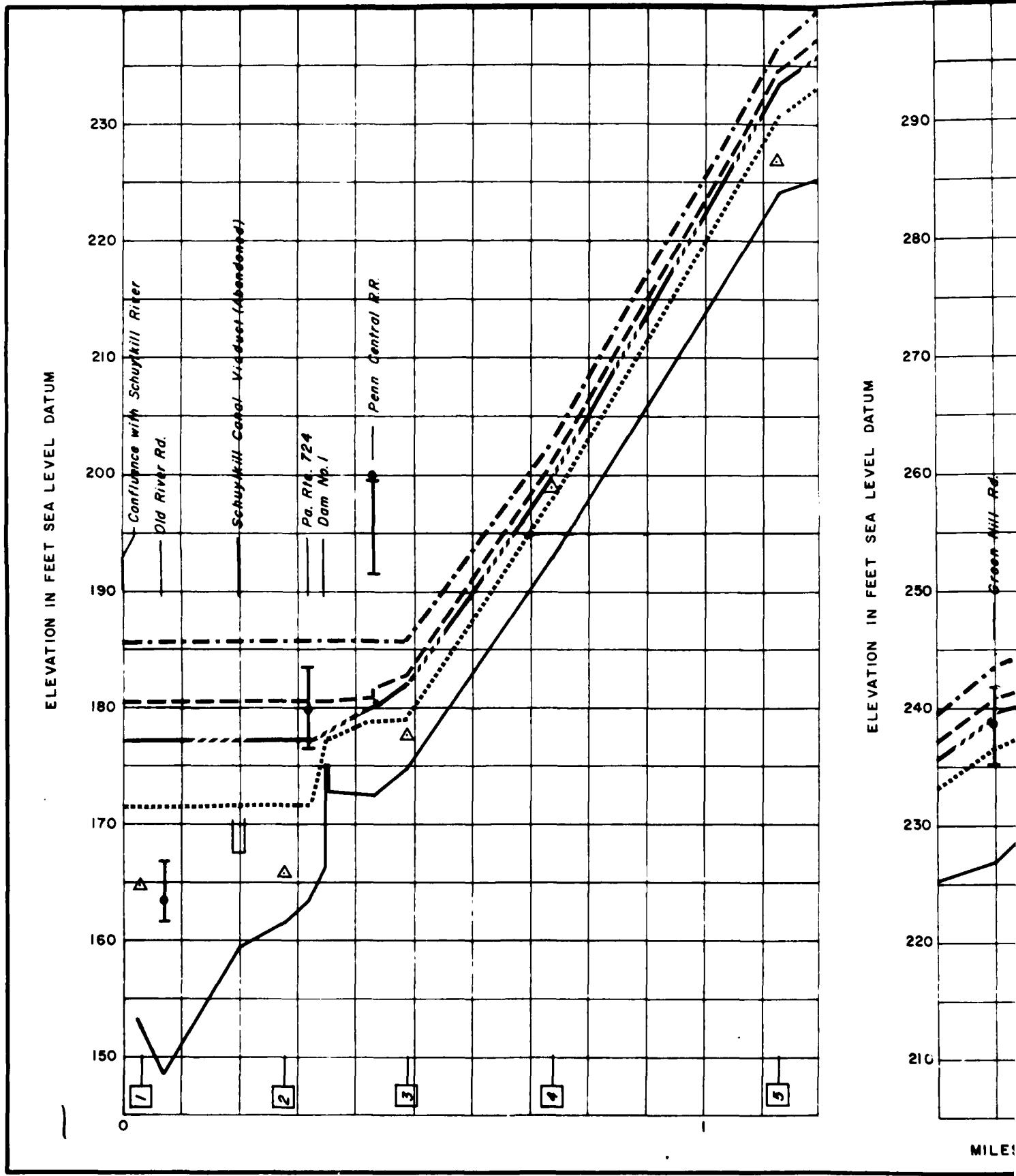
Cross Section	Mileage Above Mouth	Maximum Velocities			
		100-Year Flood		500-Year Flood	
		Channel	Overbank(a)	Channel	Overbank(a)
12	4.64	10.2	2.5	13.7	3.8
17	6.47	9.8	4.0	12.1	5.2
22	9.46	9.1	3.1	11.8	4.3

(a) Value given is maximum of left and right overbank velocity.

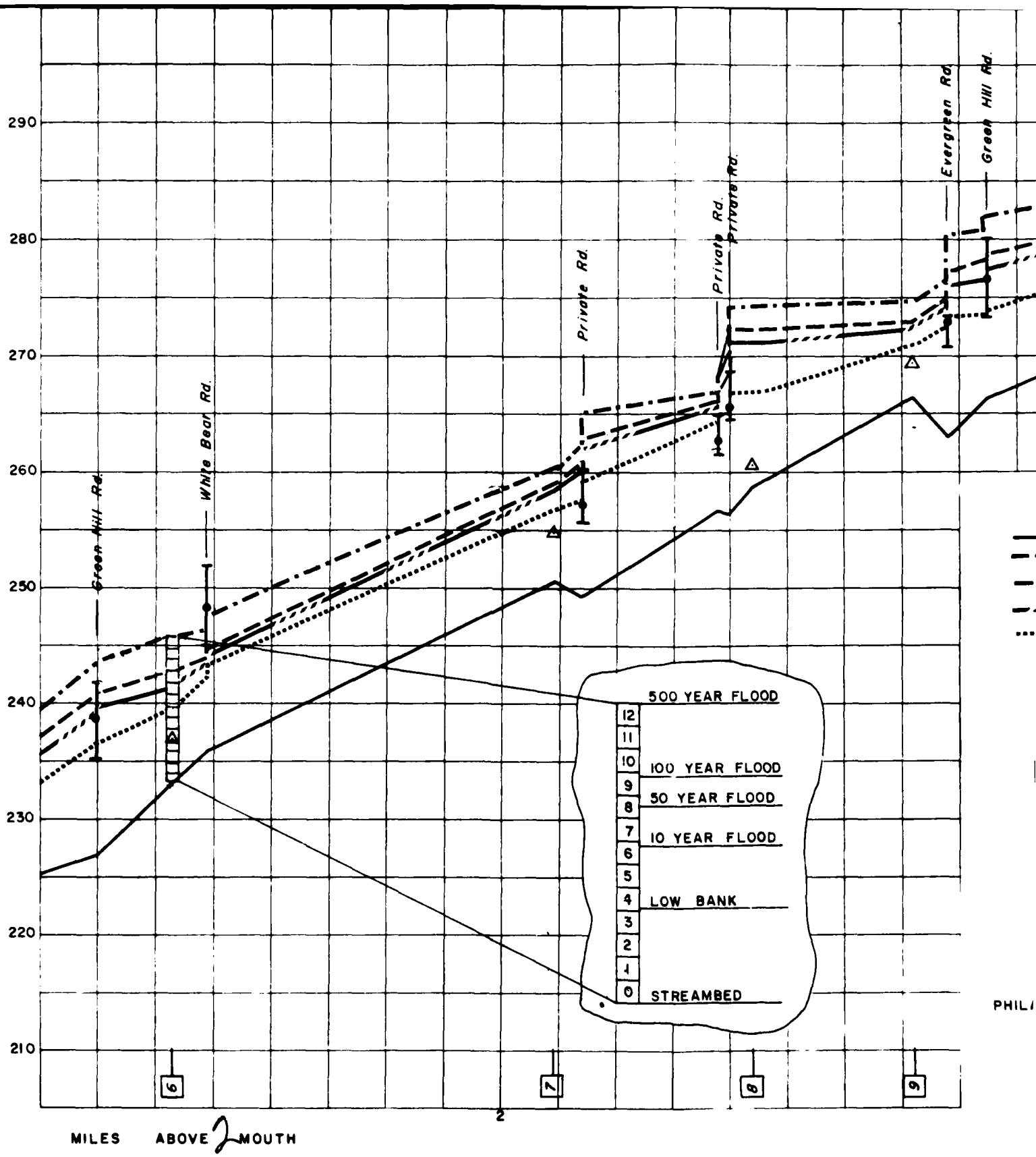
TABLE 5  
 RATES OF RISE AND DURATION OF FLOODING  
 ALLEGHENY CREEK  
 100-YEAR FLOOD

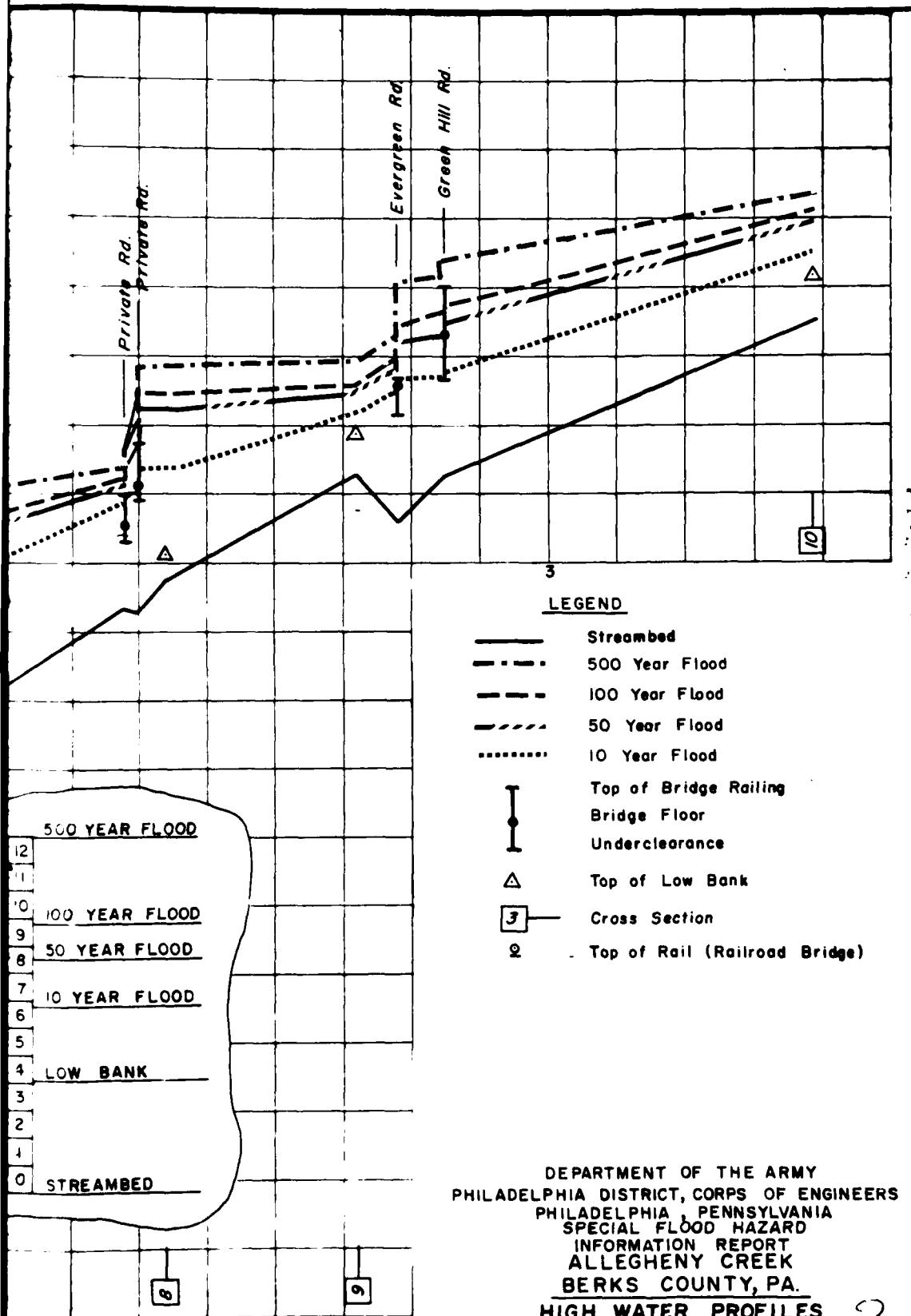
<u>Location</u>	<u>Mileage Above Mouth</u>	<u>Maximum Rate of Rise ft/hr</u>	<u>Height of Rise ft</u>	<u>Time of Rise hrs</u>	<u>Duration of Critical Stage hrs</u>
<u>Cross Section</u>					
12	4.64	1.3	3.2	3.6	22.4
17	6.47	0.5	2.1	5.1	24.2
22	9.46	0.6	1.5	2.9	13.4





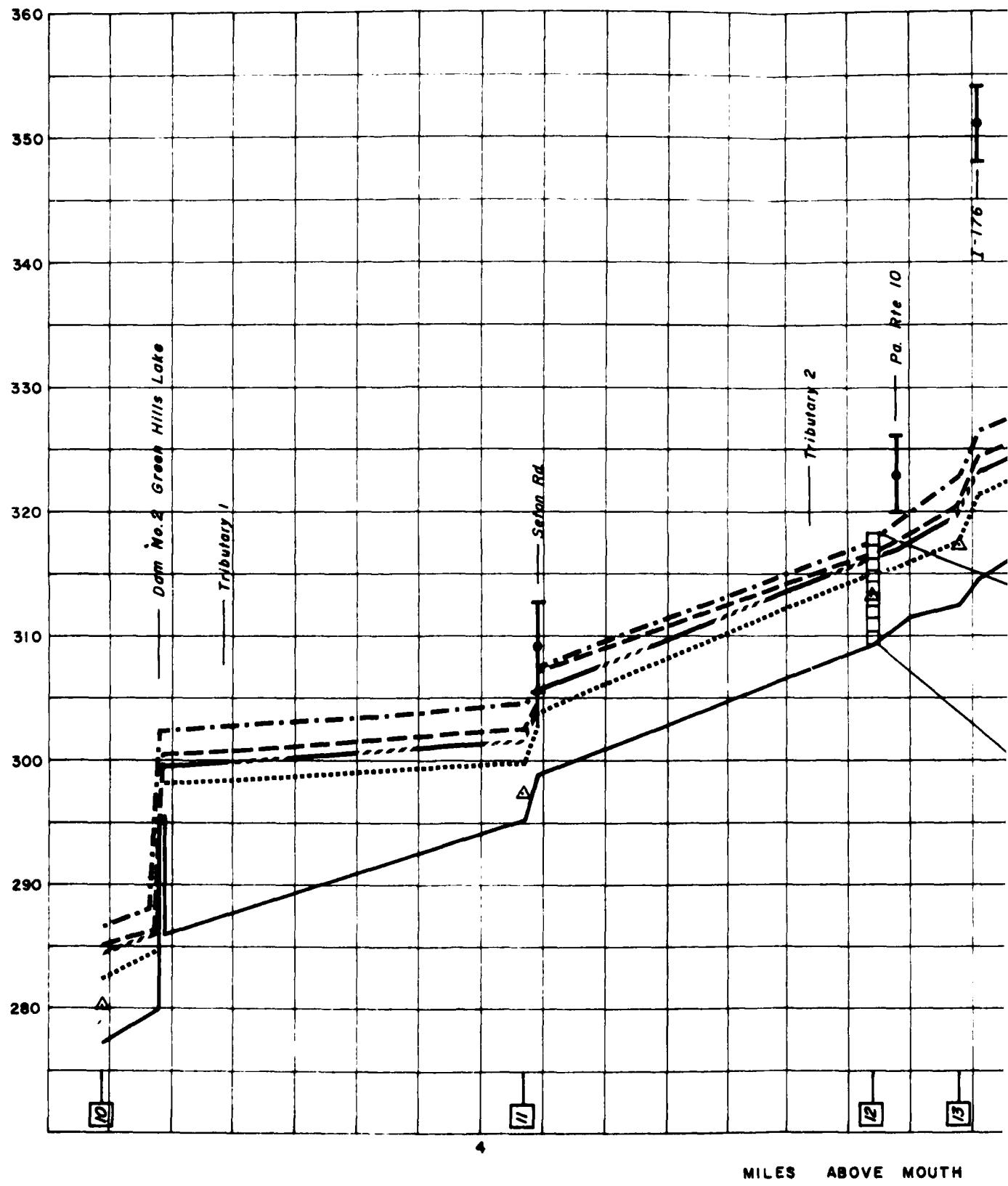
ELEVATION IN FEET SEA LEVEL DATUM

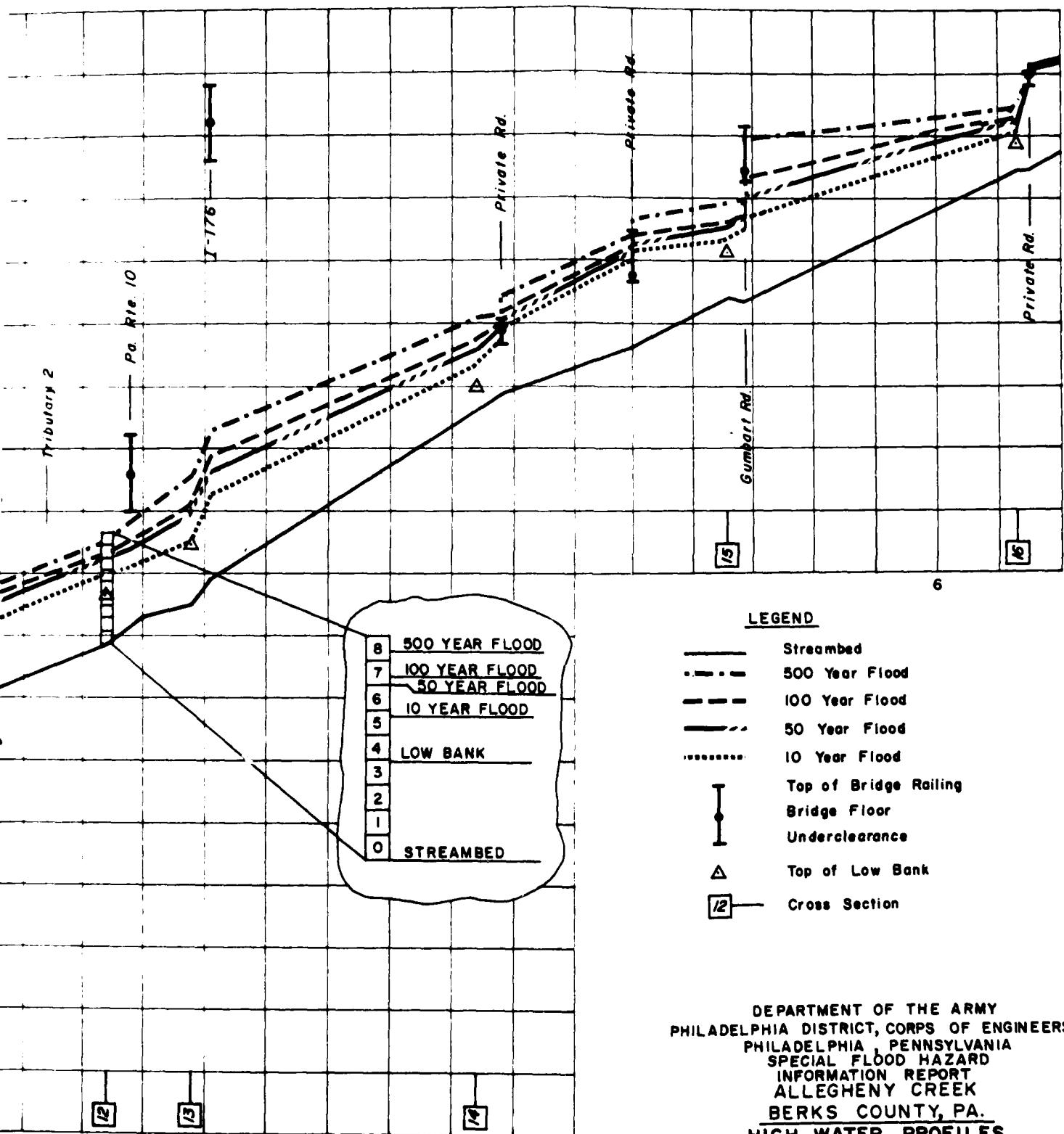




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BERKS COUNTY, PA.  
HIGH WATER PROFILES

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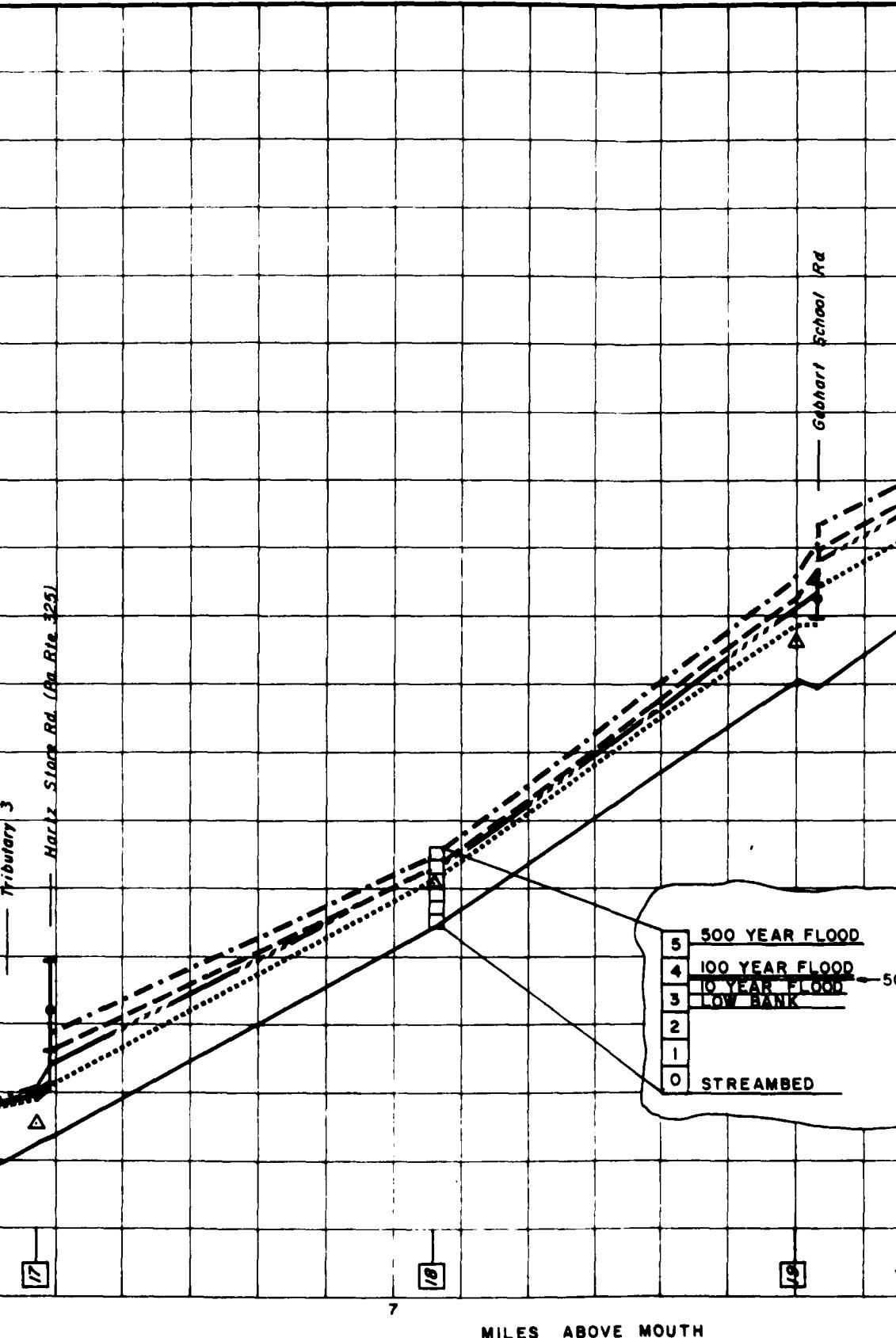


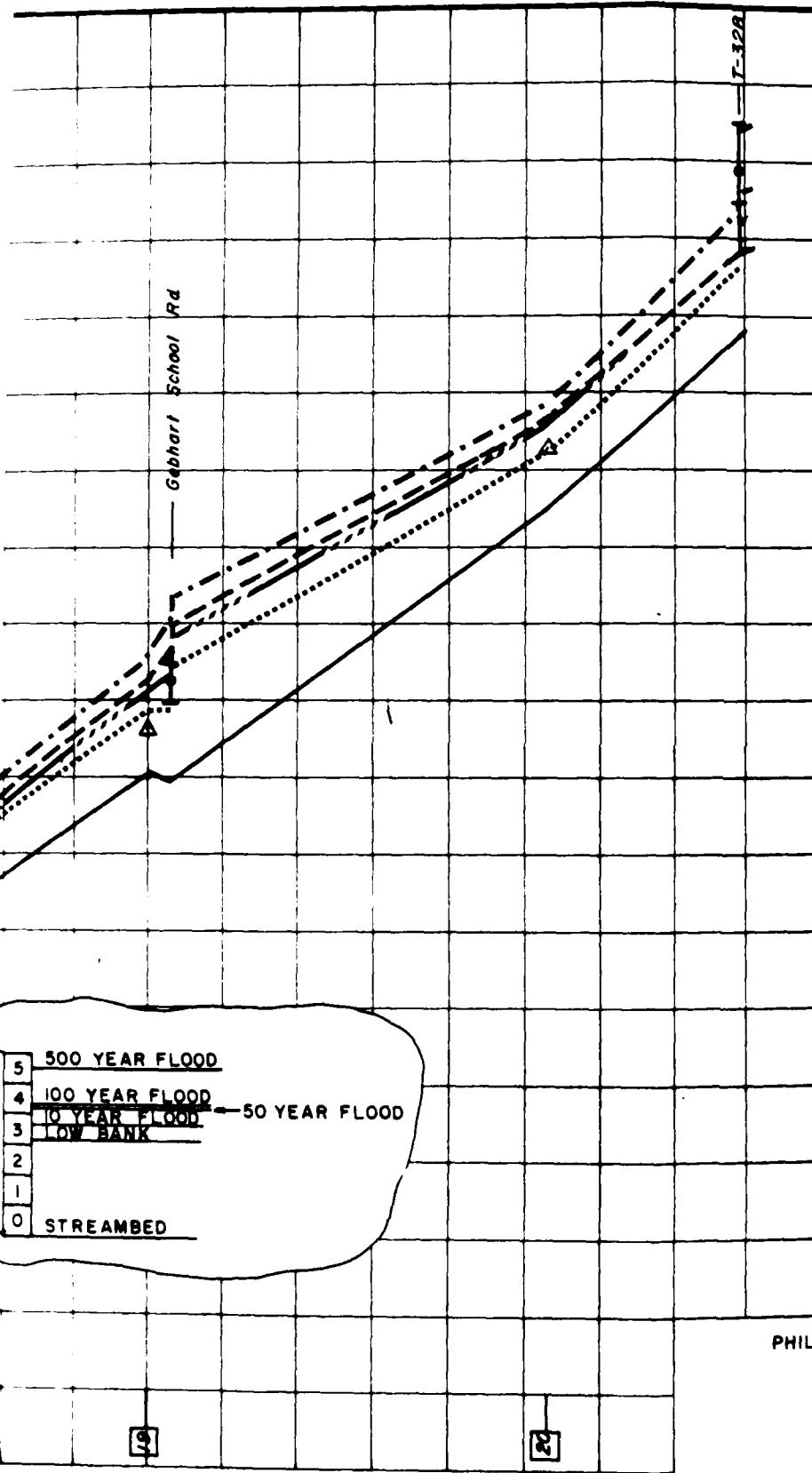
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430  
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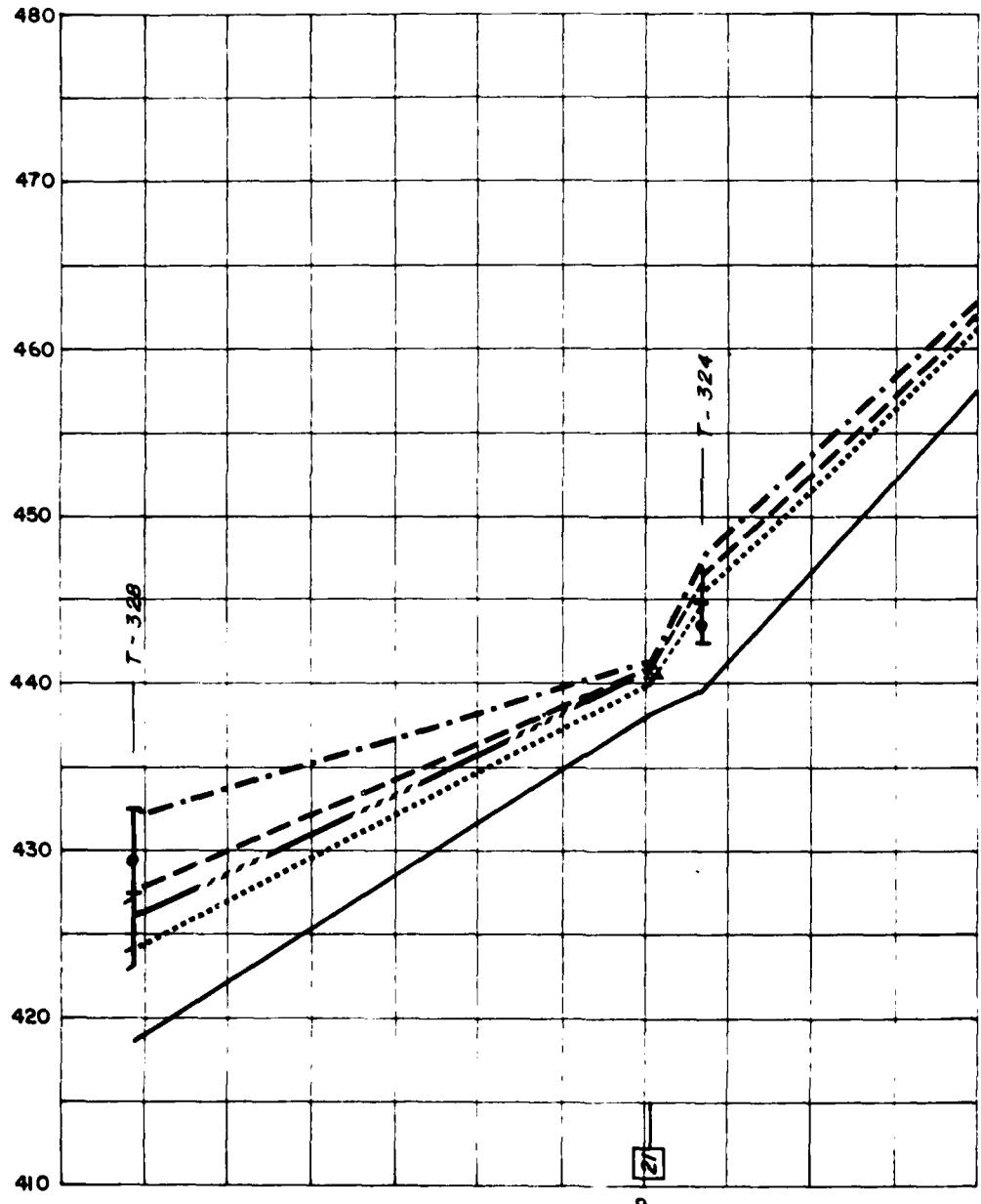
Tributary 3  
Hart's Stage Rd (Pa. Rte. 325)





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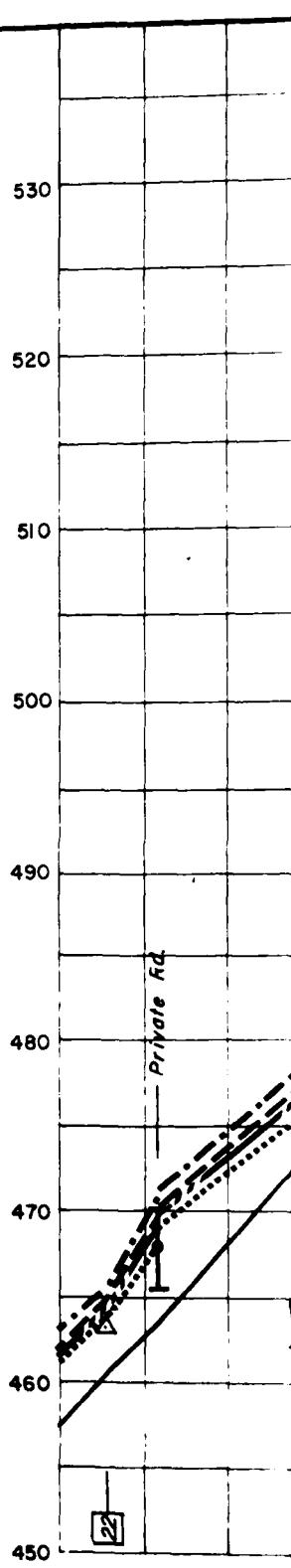
ELEVATION IN FEET SEA LEVEL DATUM



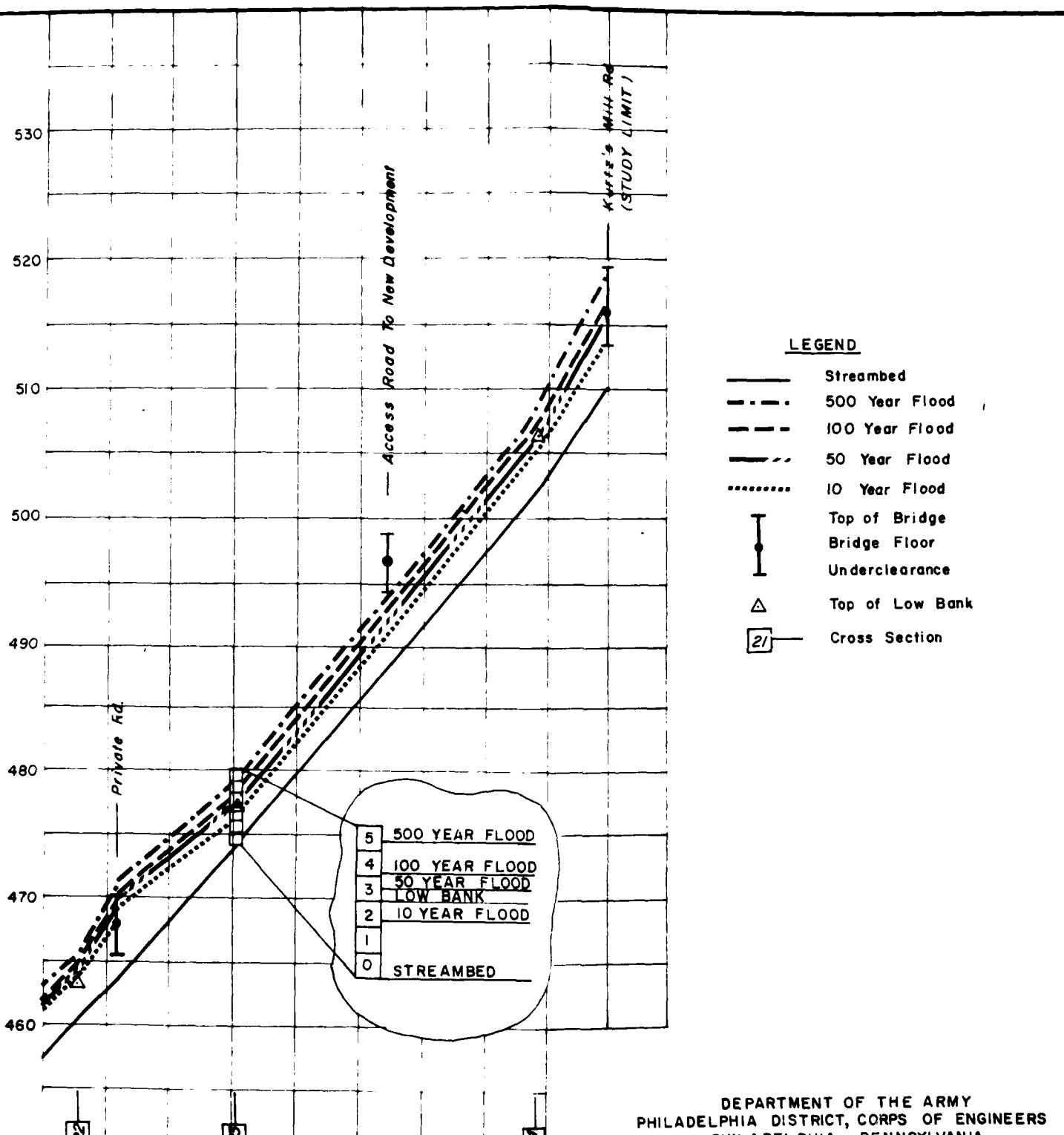
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MILES ABOVE MOUTH

ELEVATION IN FEET SEA LEVEL DATUM

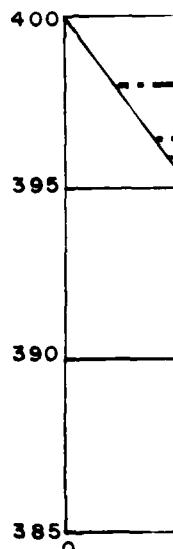
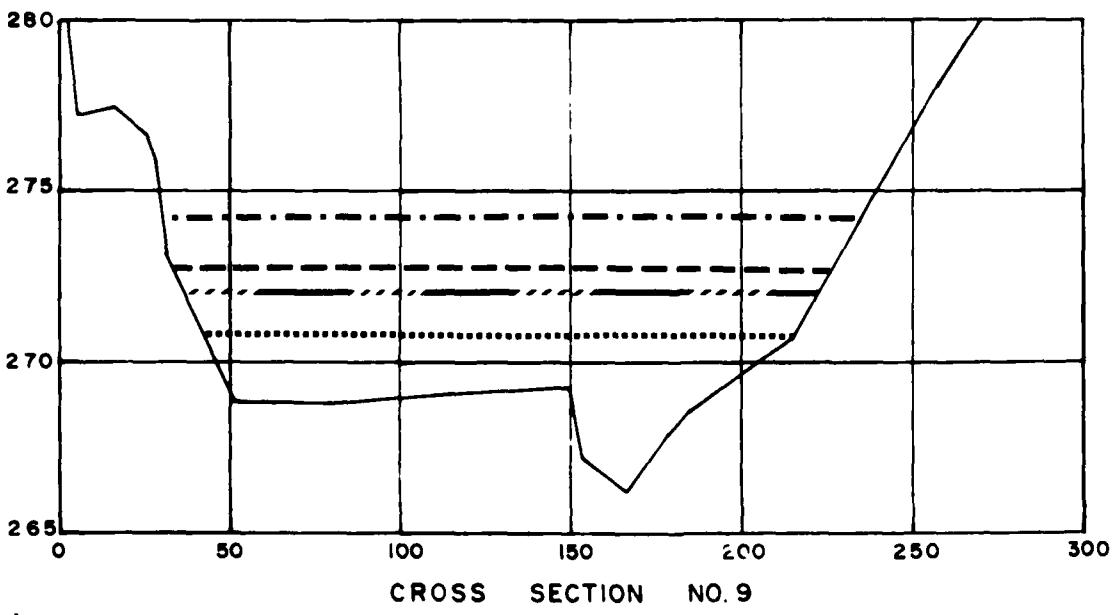
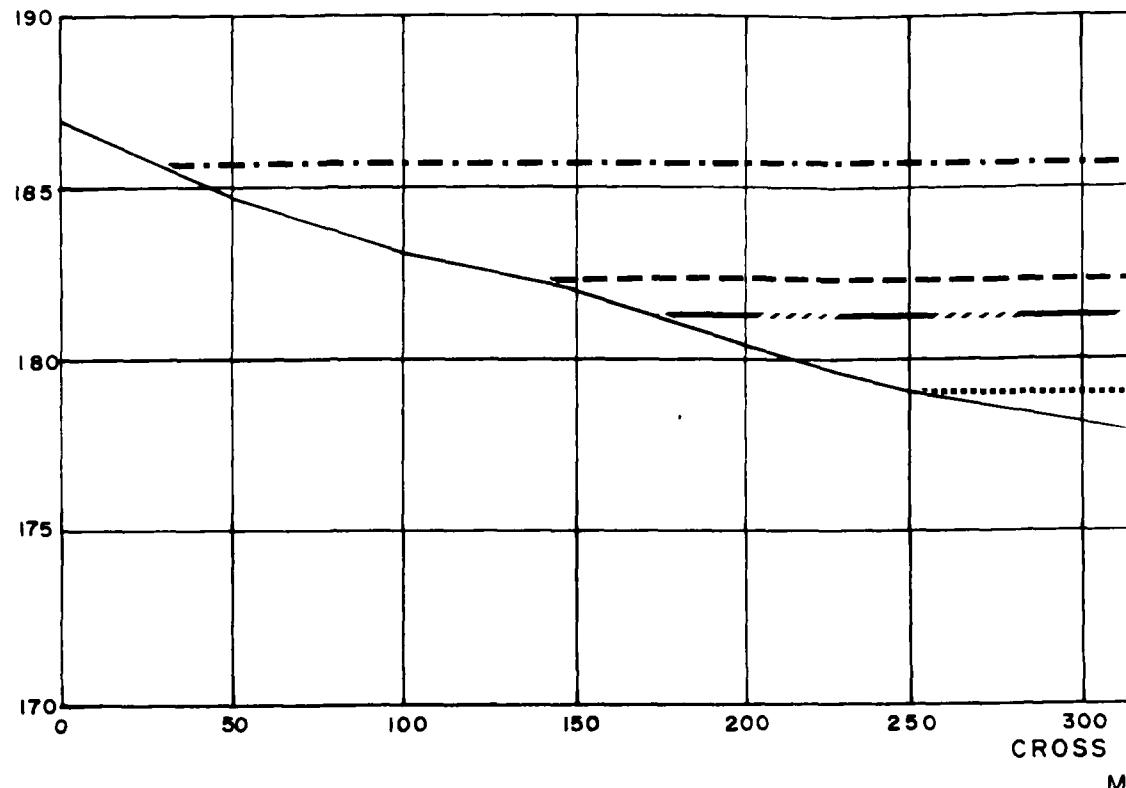


Private Rd



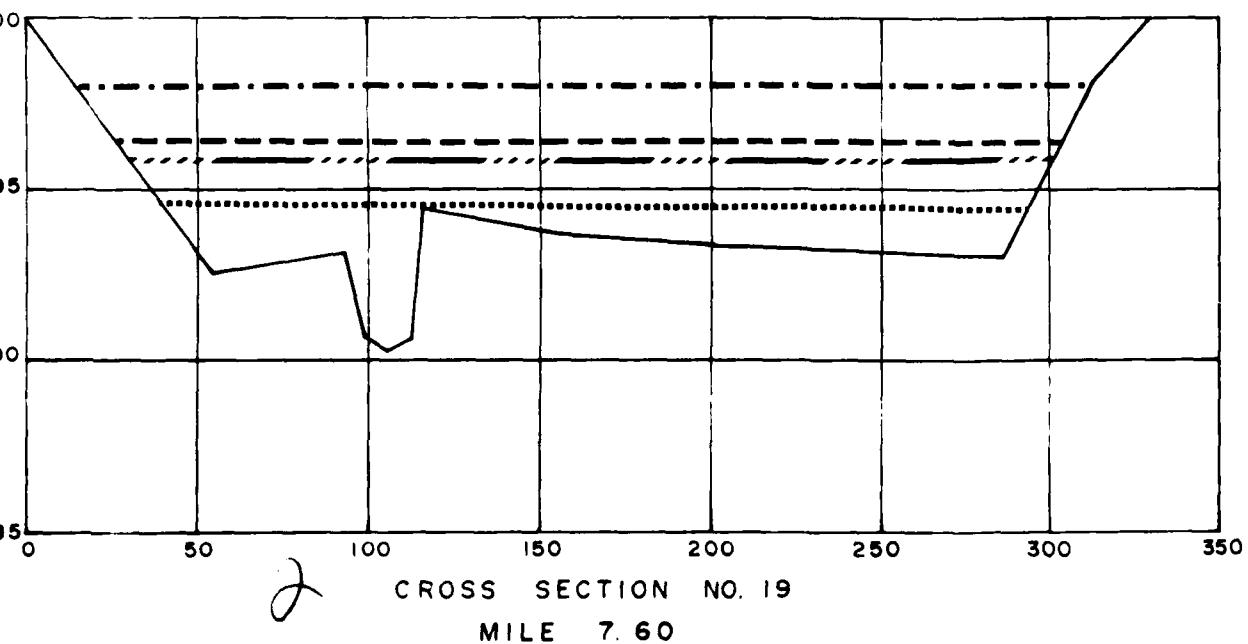
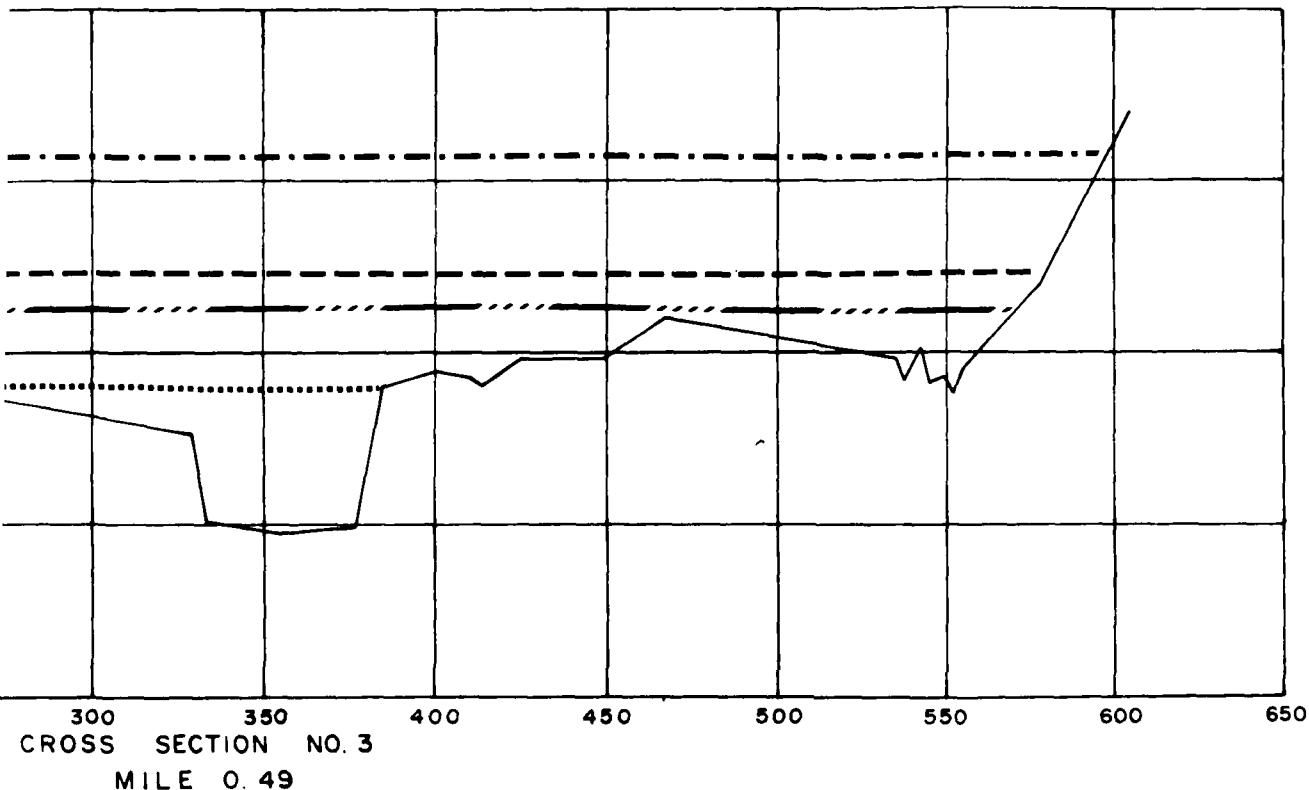
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 ALLEGHENY CREEK

ELEVATION IN FEET SEA LEVEL DATUM



CROSS SECTION NO. 9  
MILE 2.72

HORIZONTAL



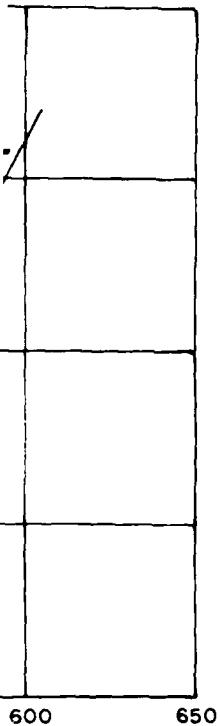
HORIZONTAL DISTANCE IN FEET

NOTE:  
The 21 Cross S  
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Cross Sections

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LEGEND

- Ground Line
- - - 500 Year Flood
- - - 100 Year Flood
- - - - 50 Year Flood
- ..... 10 Year Flood

NOTE:

The 21 Cross Sections on Allegheny Creek not shown in this report are on file at the Philadelphia District Corps Of Engineers and are available for inspection upon request.

Cross Sections taken looking Downstream

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SELECTED CROSS SECTIONS  
ALLEGHENY CREEK

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